



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#71A  
4-3-03  
*[Signature]*

In re Application of:

Kuen Yong LEE et al.

Serial No.: 09/722,010

Examiner: Leigh C. Maier

Filed: November 27, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1623

Title: REVERSIBLY CROSS-LINKED HYDROGELS

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**REPLY**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 25, 2002, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 17 to read as follows (a marked up version of the amended claims is in an appendix attached hereto):

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02 FC:2202 9.00 OP

1. (Amended) A hydrogel composition comprising a hydrogel polymer prepared using an excess amount of cross-linker having two or more functional groups capable of cross-linking the polymer such that the polymer has cross-links to other hydrogel polymer molecules and also has dangling cross-linkers with at least one functional group bound to a hydrogel polymer and at least one unbound functional group capable of reversibly cross-linking the polymer, wherein the amount of dangling cross-linkers, based on the total

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